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Bureau of Labor Statistics
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**Summary Data
from the Consumer Price
Index News Release
September 2003**

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group (1982=84=100, unless otherwise noted)

Expenditure category	CPI-U				CPI-W			
	Unadjusted index	Unadjusted percent change to Sep. 2003 from:	Seasonally adjusted percent change from:		Unadjusted index	Unadjusted percent change to Sep. 2003 from:	Seasonally adjusted percent change from:	
	Sep. 2003	Sep. 2002	Aug. 2003	Aug. to Sep.	Sep. 2003	Sep. 2002	Aug. 2003	Aug. to Sep.
All items	185.2	2.3	0.3	0.3	181.0	2.3	0.4	0.3
All items (1967=100)	554.7	-	-	-	539.2	-	-	-
Food and beverages	181.3	2.5	.2	.2	180.7	2.4	.3	.3
Food	180.7	2.4	.2	.2	180.3	2.4	.3	.3
Food at home	180.1	2.8	.2	.3	179.4	2.9	.3	.4
Cereals and bakery products	203.5	2.4	-.5	-.1	203.5	2.4	-.5	-.0
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	171.1	5.7	.8	.7	170.9	5.8	.8	.7
Dairy and related products	170.3	2.4	1.7	1.7	170.3	2.5	1.9	1.9
Fruits and vegetables	224.4	2.7	-.2	-.7	223.4	2.7	-.3	-.7
Homebrewed beverages and beverage materials	139.2	4	-.1	-.1	139.5	4	-.1	-.1
Other food at home	143.1	1.4	-.1	.2	142.0	1.4	-.1	.3
Sugar and sweetens	142.3	1.7	-.1	-.1	142.1	1.6	.0	.0
Fats and oils	137.4	1.5	-.1	.2	137.4	1.5	-.1	-.1
Other foods	179.4	1.4	.0	.3	180.0	1.4	.2	.5
Other miscellaneous foods	111.0	1.2	1.0	1.0	111.3	1.1	1.1	1.1
Food away from home	142.0	2.0	.1	.1	142.7	2.1	.2	.2
Other food away from home	121.0	2.5	.3	.0	122.0	2.3	.3	-.1
Alcoholic beverages	187.9	2.2	.4	.4	187.7	2.3	.4	.5
Housing	185.9	2.4	-.2	.1	181.4	2.4	.0	.1
Shelter	213.0	2.2	-.2	.1	207.4	2.3	.0	.1
Rent of primary residence	204.4	2.9	.2	.2	205.0	2.9	.2	.1
Lodging away from home	110.5	.8	-5.3	-.3	110.8	1.0	-4.3	-.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence	220.7	2.1	.3	.1	206.4	2.0	.3	.1
Tenants' and household insurance	115.9	2.7	.4	.1	115.8	2.3	.1	.1
Fuels and utilities	159.4	9.4	.3	.3	159.1	9.3	.2	.3
Fuels	143.4	9.5	.3	.1	142.3	9.5	.3	.2
Fuel oil and other fuels	130.5	13.3	-.2	-1.9	129.4	13.0	-.2	-1.4
Gas (piped) and electricity	181.5	9.2	.3	.4	180.4	9.4	.3	.3
Household furnishings and operations	125.2	-2.3	-.2	-.4	121.0	-2.3	-.3	-.5
Apparel	122.0	-2.1	4.1	.5	121.0	-2.0	4.3	.7
Men's and boys' apparel	117.3	-2.3	3.4	1.7	116.5	-2.0	3.2	1.6
Women's and girls' apparel	115.5	-2.1	7.0	.1	114.5	-2.0	7.1	.1
Infants' and toddlers' apparel	124.1	-1.7	2.7	1.1	124.5	-1.5	2.9	1.3
Footwear	120.3	-1.1	2.1	.8	119.4	-1.5	2.0	.9
Transportation	159.4	3.5	.7	.9	150.1	3.3	.4	.8
Private transportation	155.4	3.4	.8	.9	155.3	3.3	.7	.8
New and used motor vehicles	95.1	-3.4	-.9	-1.0	94.4	-4.4	-1.4	-1.5
New vehicles	134.4	-1.7	-.3	-.4	137.4	-1.4	-.2	.3
Used cars and trucks	139.0	-8.7	-3.0	-3.1	139.0	-8.7	-2.9	-3.2
Motor fuel	147.1	20.9	5.8	6.2	147.5	20.0	5.0	6.3
Gasoline (all types)	144.5	21.0	5.9	6.3	147.0	20.9	5.9	6.2
Motor vehicle parts and equipment	107.7	-.2	-.2	-.2	107.2	-.2	-.1	-.1
Motor vehicle maintenance and repair	194.2	2.5	.3	.2	197.2	2.4	.2	.2
Public transportation	211.3	2.3	-1.3	-.5	208.4	3.2	-1.0	-.3
Medical care	299.2	4.0	.3	.5	296.3	4.0	.3	.5
Medical care commodities	244.9	2.7	.3	.4	249.4	2.7	.3	.4
Medical care services	308.2	4.4	.3	.5	307.9	4.4	.3	.5
Professional services	242.3	2.9	.2	.3	244.4	3.0	.2	.3
Hospital and related services	399.4	7.0	.4	.4	395.0	7.3	.4	.7
Recreation	107.7	1.4	.0	.2	105.5	1.1	-.2	.0
Video and audio	103.5	1.2	-.2	-.3	102.7	1.3	-.2	.2
Education and communication	110.9	1.3	.7	.1	109.7	.5	.5	-.1
Education	134.7	7.0	1.8	.6	137.0	6.4	1.7	.4
Educational books and supplies	136.2	4.4	-.1	-1.0	139.4	4.0	.0	-1.0
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare	400.0	7.3	2.0	.7	399.2	6.7	1.9	.4
Communication	89.4	-4.2	-.4	-.4	90.3	-3.9	-.3	-.3
Information and information processing	84.7	-4.4	-.3	-.3	89.8	-4.2	-.3	-.3
Telephone services	97.4	-2.7	-.4	-.4	97.4	-2.7	-.4	-.4
Information and information processing other than telephone services	15.4	-12.4	-.6	-.6	14.1	-13.0	-1.3	-1.3
Personal computers and peripheral equipment	14.3	-22.7	-2.4	-2.4	14.0	-23.1	-1.0	-1.0
Other goods and services	299.9	1.0	.1	.1	307.9	.8	.0	.0
Tobacco and smoking products	469.7	-7.5	-.7	-.7	469.9	-7.5	-.7	-.7
Personal care	179.0	2.3	.3	.3	177.9	2.0	.3	.3
Personal care products	153.4	-.6	-.1	-.1	154.0	-.8	-.2	-.2
Personal care services	195.4	3.3	.8	.8	194.1	3.2	.8	.8
Miscellaneous personal services	285.3	3.7	.4	.4	285.2	3.7	.3	.4
Commodity and service group								
Commodities	152.0	1.2	.7	.4	152.7	1.1	.7	.4
Food and beverages	181.3	2.5	.2	.2	180.7	2.4	.3	.3
Commodities less food and beverages	135.4	1.1	.4	.5	134.7	.9	.2	.4
Non-durable less food and beverages	153.1	4.0	2.6	.9	155.9	4.4	2.0	1.0
Apparel	122.0	-2.1	4.1	.5	121.0	-2.0	4.3	.7
Non-durable less food, beverages, and apparel	174.4	4.0	2.0	1.4	181.2	7.3	2.1	1.5
Durables	115.7	-4.1	-.9	-.9	115.5	-4.6	-1.3	-1.1
Services	214.1	3.1	.0	.2	214.3	3.2	.1	.2
Rent of shelter	222.4	3.3	-.2	.1	199.9	2.3	-.1	.3
Transportation services	214.0	3.2	-.2	.1	214.0	3.0	.0	.2
Other services	257.0	3.2	.6	.4	250.4	2.7	.5	.3
Special indexes								
All items less food	186.0	2.3	.4	.3	181.0	2.2	.4	.3
All items less shelter	176.0	2.4	.4	.4	173.3	2.2	.4	.4
All items less medical care	179.2	2.2	.3	.3	176.0	2.2	.5	.3
Commodities less food	137.3	1.0	.4	.5	136.4	.8	1.0	.5
Non-durable less food	155.2	4.0	2.4	.9	157.9	4.2	2.4	1.0
Non-durable less food and apparel	174.4	4.3	1.0	1.7	181.1	6.0	2.0	1.9
Non-durable less food and apparel	167.4	3.2	1.3	.5	168.0	3.4	1.4	.5
Services less rent of shelter	228.2	3.2	.4	.4	203.7	4.3	.3	.4
Services less medical care services	210.3	3.0	.0	.3	204.8	3.1	.1	.3
Energy	144.4	14.7	2.0	3.0	144.2	15.1	3.0	3.3
All items less energy	191.0	1.4	.1	.3	186.4	1.3	.1	.1
All items less food and energy	193.6	1.2	.1	.1	189.1	.9	.1	.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	140.2	2.4	.4	-.4	140.2	-3.9	-.1	-.1
Energy commodities	144.9	20.4	5.5	5.4	147.2	20.5	5.5	5.6
Services less energy services	224.9	2.7	.0	.2	221.2	2.7	.1	.2
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar								
(1982=84=100)	\$.940	-	-	-	\$.952	-	-	-
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1967=100)	\$.180	-	-	-	\$.195	-	-	-

1 Not seasonally adjusted.

2 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

3 This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item status index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

4 U-population indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

W-population indexes on a December 1984=100 base.

5 Indexes on a December 1980=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Selected areas, all items index

(1982=100, unless otherwise noted)

Area	CPI-U				All items				CPI-W			
	Indexes			Percent change to Sep. 2003 base	Indexes			Percent change to Sep. 2003 base	Indexes			Percent change to Sep. 2003 base
	July 2003	Aug. 2003	Sep. 2003		July 2003	Aug. 2003	Sep. 2003		July 2003	Aug. 2003	Sep. 2003	
U.S. city average	183.9	184.4	185.2	2.3		179.4	180.3	181.0	2.3			
Region and area size¹												
Northeast urban	183.5	184.3	185.0	2.9		180.0	180.7	181.9	3.1			
Size A - More than 1,500,000	185.5	186.4	187.3	3.2		180.0	181.0	182.0	3.4			
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ²	114.5	114.4	115.0	2.1		114.5	114.5	115.1	2.3			
Midwest urban	178.1	178.8	179.5	1.9		173.3	174.1	174.6	1.7			
Size A - More than 1,500,000	180.5	181.2	182.0	1.8		174.8	175.5	176.4	1.7			
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ²	113.1	113.4	113.9	2.2		113.5	113.0	113.3	1.9			
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	172.4	172.1	172.3	1.4		169.1	169.9	170.9	1.3			
South urban	177.3	177.9	178.3	2.4		174.3	174.9	175.3	2.1			
Size A - More than 1,500,000	179.1	179.9	180.1	2.9		176.3	177.0	177.9	2.7			
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ²	113.1	113.4	113.9	2.3		113.9	112.1	112.4	1.7			
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	175.8	175.9	176.3	2.1		174.4	175.5	176.9	1.7			
West urban	180.4	180.2	180.4	2.1		183.4	184.2	185.0	2.4			
Size A - More than 1,500,000	180.9	181.7	182.3	2.3		184.3	185.3	186.1	2.4			
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ²	113.1	113.5	113.6	2.2		114.4	114.9	115.3	2.3			
Size classes												
A ³	178.3	180.9	181.4	2.5		164.3	167.3	168.0	2.6			
B/C ³	113.9	113.9	114.3	2.2		112.9	113.1	113.5	2.0			
D	174.1	177.1	177.4	1.8		174.4	175.3	175.6	1.4			
Selected local areas⁴												
Chicago-Gary-Evanston, IL-IN-WI	184.1	184.5	184.1	2.2		177.9	178.3	179.6	2.3			
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Orange County, CA	184.3	184.9	185.3	2.6		179.8	180.5	181.9	3.2			
New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA	187.7	189.1	189.4	3.3		182.0	184.1	185.0	3.4			
Boston-Brockton-Walton, MA-NH-CT	202.0	-	204.8	3.9		202.2	-	204.2	4.3			
Cleveland-Akron, OH	174.0	-	176.5	2.2		187.0	-	189.9	2.3			
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	174.5	-	177.0	2.3		175.9	-	178.9	2.2			
Washington-Baltimore, DC-DE-VA-WY ⁵	114.8	-	117.2	2.0		114.2	-	116.9	2.8			
Atlanta, GA	-	181.7	-	-		-	179.4	-	-			
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI	-	183.4	-	-		-	177.9	-	-			
Houston-Galveston-Beaumont, TX	-	184.1	-	-		-	183.4	-	-			
Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL	-	180.9	-	-		-	178.3	-	-			
Philadelphia-Philadelphia-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD	-	181.1	-	-		-	189.3	-	-			
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA	-	184.3	-	-		-	182.3	-	-			
Seattle-Tacoma-Bozeman, WA	-	184.4	-	-		-	180.2	-	-			

¹ Regions defined as the four Census regions.

² Indexes on a December 1984=100 base.

³ Indexes on a December 1984=100 base.

⁴ In addition, the following metropolitan areas are published semiannually and appear in Tables 34 and 35 of the January and July issues of the CPI Detailed Report: Anchorage, AK; Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-NY-IN; Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO; Honolulu, HI; Kansas City, MO-KS; Milwaukee-Racine, WI; Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI; Phoenix-Mesa, AZ; Pittsburgh, PA; Portland-Salem, OR-WA; St. Louis, MO-IL; San Diego, CA; Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL.

⁵ Indexes on a November 1984=100 base.

⁶ Data not available.

NOTE: Local area indexes are subproducts of the national CPI program. Each local index has a smaller sample size than the national index and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are similar. Therefore, the Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider the national average CPI for use in their calculator circuits.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a market basket of goods and services. CPIs are published for two population groups: 1) The CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which covers 32 percent of the total population, and 2) the CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and the Chained CPI for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U), which each cover about 87 percent of the total population. While the CPI-U and CPI-W are considered final when released, the C-CPI-U is issued in preliminary form and is subject to two annual revisions. The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, transportation, medical care, and other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in 87 locations are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. *Indexes for different months are usually compared in relative terms. Thus, an index of 133.5 is 1.063 times higher than an index of 125.6 (133.5/125.6=1.063); in*

other words, prices increased 6.3 percent. The CPI is used as an indicator of inflation, a deflator of other economic series, and an escalator for income payments.

More detail. This news release from the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor provides summary data from the Consumer Price Index. The full release is available electronically on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/> at release time. If you have any questions about the CPI, please write to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes, Room 3615 PSB, Washington, DC 20212, or call (202) 691-7000. Full detail is available in the monthly periodical *CPI Detailed Report* for \$47 per year from New Orders, Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339. For a recorded message of summary CPI data, call (202) 691-5200.

CPI For All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)-Analysis

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI-U rose 0.3 percent in September, the same as in August. Energy costs advanced sharply for the second consecutive month--up 3.0 percent in September--reflecting a 6.3 percent increase in the index for gasoline. The index for food rose 0.2 percent with the index for food at home up 0.3 percent. Increases in the indexes for dairy products and for meats, poultry, fish and eggs were partially offset by declines in the

indexes for fruits and vegetables, for cereal and bakery products, and for nonalcoholic beverages. The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.1 percent in September, the same as in August. A smaller increase in the index for shelter was offset by larger increases in the indexes for medical care and apparel.

NEXT CPI RELEASE: OCTOBER DATA ON NOVEMBER 18, 2003 8:30AM (EST); TRY OUR CPI QUICKLINE: 202-691-6994

For change of address, please include old mailing label and write to: I&C Address Change, Room 2860 PSB, BLS, Washington, DC 20212

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